

HOUSE RESOLUTION 206

By Williams R

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud the Tennessee Technological University football team on capturing the Ohio Valley Conference Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful college teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Watson Brown, the Tennessee Technological University (Tennessee Tech) football team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2011 season, winning its first Ohio Valley Conference Championship since 1975 and its tenth conference championship overall; and

WHEREAS, enjoying one of its most successful seasons in the history of the program, the Golden Eagles achieved a 7-4 record, making it the only NCAA Division I team in the state of Tennessee to finish 2011 with a winning record; and

WHEREAS, the team finished the year ranked an impressive 16th, 19th, and 21st in three national Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) polls and secured a spot in the FCS Playoffs for the first time in the school's history; and

WHEREAS, throughout their championship season, the Golden Eagles established a total of twenty-five new school records, breaking nine team records and sixteen individual records; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Tech football team displayed ability, teamwork, and perseverance throughout the 2011 season, winning numerous awards and honors; and

WHEREAS, demonstrating an indomitable will and remarkable courage throughout the year, senior wide receiver Tim Benford was named to an All-American Team, selected the Ohio

Valley Conference Offensive Player of the Year, and named the state's Player of the Year by the Tennessee Sports Writer's Association; and

WHEREAS, also greatly contributing to the team's success were senior Corey Watson, who was named to the FCS Athletic Director's Association Academic All-Star team and the Co-SIDA Academic All-District Team; James Normand, who was named to the Co-SIDA Academic All-District Team; and senior Scott Schweitzer, who was named to four different All-American Teams; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the season, these talented athletes not only dominated the collegiate football ranks, but proved to be assiduous scholars as well; a total of thirty-five members of the Golden Eagle football team were listed on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll for earning an exemplary grade point average of 3.0 or higher; and

WHEREAS, the leadership and passion for the game of Head Coach Watson Brown is without peer; he was named the Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year and the Tennessee Sports Writer's Association's Coach of the Year, and Watson Brown's precepts of playing tenacious defense, controlling the ball on offense, and limiting mistakes were perfectly on display during the Golden's Eagles' run for the conference championship; and

WHEREAS, their phenomenal accomplishment would not have been possible without the undying support of the Tennessee Tech fans who established the highest home attendance average in Tucker Stadium in twenty-five seasons; and

WHEREAS, during this incredible championship season, the members of the 2011 Tennessee Tech football team etched their names onto the hearts of Tennesseans and into the annals of Tennessee sports history; their dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent not only made possible a successful and memorable football season, but also surely point toward their success in future endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that this Body joins the administration, faculty, students, and alumni of Tennessee Technological University in

congratulating the Golden Eagles' football coaches and players on their 2011 Ohio Valley Conference Championship, and wish them every future success, both on and off the gridiron.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.